

Claims

We claim:

1 1. A method for controlling a plant pathogen wherein said method comprises
2 applying to said plant pathogen a pesticidally effective amount of a plant essential oil.

1 2. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is from a plant
2 selected from the group consisting of Palmarosa (*Cymbopogon martini*), tea tree (*Melaleuca*
3 *alternifolia*), marjoram (*Thymus masiichina*), oregano (*Origanum vulgare*), lemongrass
4 (*Cymbopogon flexuosus*), *Eucalyptus citriodora* and thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*).

1 3. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said plant is palmarosa.

1 4. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said essential oil is palmarosa oil.

1 5. The method, according to claim 3, wherein said essential oil is geraniol.

1 6. The method, according to claim 2, wherein said plant is thyme.

1 7. The method, according to claim 6, wherein said essential oil is thymol.

1 8. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is used to control a
2 plant pathogen selected from the group consisting of *Penicillium* sp., *Botrytis* sp., *Monilinia*
3 sp., *Alternaria* sp., *Aspergillus* sp., *Rhizopus* sp., *Sphaerotheca* sp., *Erysiphe* sp., *Uncinula*
4 sp., *Podosphaera* sp., *Phytophthora* sp., *Pythium* sp., *Peronospora* sp., *Ralstoria* sp.,
5 Hemibasidiomycetes, nematodes, *Venturia* sp., *Cercospora* sp., *Pseudocercospora* sp.,
6 *Cercospora* sp., *Cercosporidium* sp., *Fusarium* sp., *Ophiostoma* sp. and other wood staining
7 fungi, *Diplodia* sp., *Erwinia* sp., *Pseudomonas* sp., and *Xanthomonas* sp.

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1 9. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said pathogen is *Ralstoria*
2 *solenacearum*.

1 10. The method, according to claim 9, wherein said *Ralstoria solenacearum* is
2 controlled using an agent selected from the group consisting of thyme essential oil, thymol,
3 palmarosa oil and geraniol.

1 11. The method, according to claim 8, wherein said pathogen is selected from the
2 group consisting of *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *lycopersici*, *Phytophthora capsici*, *Pythium*
3 *aphanidermatum*, and *Athelia rolfsii*.

1 12. The method, according to claim 11, wherein said plant pathogen is controlled
2 using an essential oil from a plant selected from the group consisting of wild marjoram,
3 palmarosa, and thyme.

1 13. The method, according to claim 1, wherein said essential oil is applied as a
2 fumigant.

1 14. The method, according to claim 1, wherein the plant pathogen is a soil-borne
2 pathogen.

1 15. The method, according to claim 1, wherein tomatoes are protected from said
2 plant pathogen.

1 16. The method, according to claim 16, wherein said plant pathogen is *Ralstoria*
2 *solenacearum*.

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1 17. The method, according to claim 17, wherein tomatoes are protected against said
2 *Ralstoria solenacearum* by an essential oil from palmarosa or thyme.

1 18. A container which contains an essential plant oil and which has associated with
2 said container directions for using said essential plant oil to control one or more plant
3 pathogens.

1 19. A composition for the control of a plant pathogen wherein said composition
2 comprises an essential oil and an agricultural carrier formulated for fumigation.